ONGC

871. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether materials valued Rs. 35 lacs have been stolen from Sonapur stores of ONGC, West Bengal in January 1994;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details of the findings and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Spare parts worth about Rs. 4 lakhs of a few old vehicles of ONGC were stolen from Sonarpur Stores of the Corporation in January, 1994.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Vigilance enquiry conducted by ONGC indicated that the spare parts of a few vehicles were removed by employees of the Security and Stores Departments of ONGC from the Sonarpur Stores in connivance with certain outsiders. Although one official of the Stores Department of ONGC was chargesheeted for major penalty, the Disciplinary Authority exonerated him of all the Charges since the Departmental Inquiry could not establish the charges. The final report of the Departmental Inquiry has since been completed by ONGC and action against the other chargesheeted employees will be taken as per the findings of the Inquiry Report.

Panipat Oil Refinery

872. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of the Government to give preference in providing employment to the locals of the area in which the farmers are affected by acquisition of their land as has happened in the case of Panipat Oil Refinery (earlier named as Karnal refinery);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to frame such a policy to help the families which have been affected by acquisition of their agricultural land;

(d) whether the Government have recruited any persons from the local area so far; and

(e) if so, the number thereof showing the class to which they are recruited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Policy

873. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have radical changes in the exploration policy of the oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to include private participation in exploration of oil and natural gas has also been further screened; and

(d) if so, to what extent the exploration of oil and natural gas in the country is likely to be boosted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). No decision has been taken by the Government on the new Exploration Licensing Policy.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation

874. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a reduction in the budget of Department of Science and Technology after introduction of new economic policies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that recently a top most scientist has drawn attention towards pitiable condition of laboratories due to this reduction; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Condition of DDA Flats

875. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that hundred of flats/houses built by the DDA a number of years back are still lying vacant and the condition of the houses is deteriorating;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the houses lying vacant; and